



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**SAN ANTONIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENT
CONCERNING TERRORISM RELATED INFORMATION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in San Antonio this afternoon, Alfred P. Steele pled guilty to making false statements to federal authorities by providing them with fraudulent terrorism related information. As a result, Steele faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

According to court records, Steele, a practicing Muslim who worships at the Fair Haven Mosque in San Antonio, admitted to the court that he fabricated a story he told federal authorities about an atlas he discovered around February 15, 2004, inside the mosque which contained writings and other information he believed to be terrorism related. According to Steele, he was approached in the mosque by a man of Middle Eastern descent and asked if he knew where Crawford, Texas, was located. The man and another individual were looking at an atlas at the time. Steele told authorities that he was able to get a look at the atlas when it was left out in plain sight, unattended and that there were several entries that concerned him. Steele also claimed that he subsequently purchased the same atlas, then began transferring information from the original atlas over a three-week period.

Steele provided his copy of the atlas to federal authorities on April 19, 2004. Steele's atlas contained several highlighted border crossings from Mexico and Canada; various comments referring to "al-Queda" and several types of attacks and weapons, as well as descriptions of airplanes and their speeds, length and carrying capacity; Crawford Ranch was circled with dates and flight paths from Ft. Worth to Killeen with a diversion to Crawford; plus, several chemicals were also listed throughout the atlas, including written notes regarding ammonia nitrate (sic) and uranium. In pleading guilty, Steele admitted that all of the information was false.

Sentencing for Steele is scheduled for 10:00am on November 18, 2005, before United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez.

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation - Joint Terrorism Task Force. Assistant United States Attorneys David Counts and Don Calvert are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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